

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, before line 1, insert the following paragraph:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 10/102,679, filed March 22, 2002, now U.S. Patent No. 6,452,751, which is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/299,909, filed April 28, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,373,661, the subject matter of which is incorporated by reference herein.

Page 7, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 22 as follows:

Three pads for flying 10 for producing a flying force are formed on a bleed surface 11 of the slider 1. Two of these pads 10 are provided respectively at opposite ends of an inflow-side portion (to which an air stream, produced in accordance with the rotation of a disk, flows) of the slider 1, and the other pad 10 is provided at a central portion of a-an outflow-side portion of the slider 1. Each flying pad 10 has a flat surface portion 13, a step portion 14 (defined by a surface disposed generally perpendicular to the flat surface portion 13) facing the air stream inflow side, and a step surface 12. The flat surface portions 13 of the three flying pads 10 lie generally in a common horizontal plane. The step surface 12 is disposed generally parallel to the flat surface portion 13, and structured to have a microscopic depth (the step portion 14) in a direction generally perpendicular to the flat surface portion 13. The step surfaces 12 of the three flying pads 10 lie generally in a common horizontal plane. A microscopic projection 17 is formed on the step surface 12 of each of the two inflow-side pads 10. The microscopic projection 17 is disposed near an outer corner portion 16a of the step surface 12. The slider 1 is provided with a thin-film magnetic head 20 provided rearward of the flat surface portion 13 of the outflow-side pad 10. A gap portion 21 of the magnetic head 20 is disposed generally in a plane in which the flat surface portion 13 lies. A coil portion 22 and lead terminals 23 are provided at the outflow end surface of the slider 1.